Statewise;

(b) the number of industries in the State of Assam which have been provided loans during the last three years;

(c) the details of pending cases for grant of loans to industrial units in Assam; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) since 1995-96. Te programme consists of the following components:

(i) Special Employment Programme (SEP) in 71 districts.

(ii) Development Programme in 125 RPDS Blocks.

(iii) National Programme for selected villagae industries *viz.* Beekeeping, Handmade Paper and Leather.

(iv) Thrust Aea Industries Programme *viz.* Pottery, Soap, Lime, Cane and Bamboo, Processing of Cereals and Pulses, Villagae Oils, etc.

The REGP aims to create 2 million additional jobs in the rural areas of the country. The State-wise number of projects launched and implemented is not available with the KVIC.

(b) 9519 industries have been provided loans in the State of Assam during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Three project proposals; two of them for brick bhattas and one for readymade garments have been received by KVIC from Assam. Two of them have been sanctioned, however, funds are yet to be released due to non-completion of certain legal formalities by the entrepreneurs. One project is under scrutiny/ appraisal in the KVIC.

Disinvestments recommended by Disinvestment Commission

*215. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fertilizer Corporation of India suffered the heaviest loss amongst the Public Sector Undertaking in 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details of the Central PSUs which suffered losses during the year indicating the extent of loss suffered by each, and the total Government investment in each of them?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir, as per available information for 1996-97.

(b) During 1996-97, 104 Central PSUs have incurred losses. The PSUspwise details of losses and investments made in these Central PSUs are available at Statement 7B and Statement 16 of Public Enterprises Survey 1996-97 Vol. I which was laid in both the Houses of Parliament on 8.6.1998.

"ट्रिप्स" समझौते में परिवर्तन

*216. **डा० महेश चन्द्र शर्मा:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का यह विचार है कि "ट्रिप्स" समझौते में अनुच्छेद 70.9 तत्वतः असंगत है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस अनुच्छेद को उक्त समझौते में से हटाने के लिए कोई प्रयास कर रही है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने ट्रिप्स समझौते की समुचित समीक्षा की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो किन-किन प्रावधानों में परिवर्तन करना आवश्यक है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) और (घ) बौद्धिक सम्पदा अधिकारों के व्यापार पहलुओं से संबंधित (ट्रिप्स) करार में ट्रिप्स परिषद् द्वारा 1 जनवरी, 2000 के बाद इसकी समीक्षा किए जाने का प्रावधान है।

VRS scheme for Central PSUs

*217. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for more attractive Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the same;

(d) the total number of workers likely to be covered under the scheme and financial implications thereof; and

(e) the total number of persons covered under VRS during the past five years; Central PSU-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) The Finance Minister, in the Budget Speech had announced a liberalised Voluntary Retirement Scheme as follows:

> "....To make the compensation package attractive, it is proposed to make applicable the benefits of VRS package, namely 45 days wages for each completed year of service, subject to the maximum wage or salary accruable on the basis of the balance of years of service left to all the workers of these public sector units. As a further improvement to the package, the workers of these units will also be eligible for a maximum of 60 months or 5 years salary or wages as compensation in the case of all those who have completed not less than 30 years of service. This would mean that all those who have put in more than 30 years of service will get more than the normal VRS. The other conditions of the VRS will apply and this offer will be made time bound. This scheme would cover employees in all PSUs.

(e) Information regarding number of employees who have opted for VRS in the last five years, till 31.3.98, is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 185, Annexure No. 42]

Reservation for SCs/STs in Government service and PSUs

*218 SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to make a special enactment with the provision of reservation for SCs/STs in Government service and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs); and

(b) if so, the steps taken to draft such law and to bring the bill in Parliament and State Legislative bodies as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MENAKA GANDHI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Housing societies formed by BHEL

*219. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Housing societies formed by BHEL employees/officers since 1980 at Delhi alongwith names, designation of their promoters and office bearers;

(b) the number of members and the amount collected by each of the above housing societies and since when;

(c) the names and designations of the members who were granted full refund alongwith the amount so refunded; and

(d) the actions initiated by BHEL management against the employees who have mismanaged the funds of the members or swindled the funds?